

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claims 1-6 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1-10 and 12-13 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1, 4-6 have been amended to improve claim language. Claim 7 has been amended to include claim 11 which has been cancelled.

The Abstract has been revised as requested by the Examiner.

No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

Claims 1-6 are now believed in condition for allowance and early indication of same is courteously solicited.

The objection to the disclosure and the *35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph* rejection of claims 1-13 are believed overcome in view of the above amendments.

The *35 U.S.C. 102(b)* rejection of claims 7-9 and 11-13 as being anticipated by Takesita (U.S. Patent No. 5,836,380) is *traversed* because the reference fails to teach or disclose each and every element of the rejected claims. More particularly, Applicants respectfully submit that Takesita fails to teach or disclose the claim limitation that the first and second air flows flow through the respective heat exchangers in **substantially perpendicular** directions, as presently claimed in independent claim 7. As can be seen in the figures of Takesita, the first and second air flows flow in *opposite* directions.

The *35 U.S.C. 103(a)* rejection of claim 10 as being unpatentable over Takesita in view of Tshiji (U.S. Patent No. 6,032,723) is traversed because the references singly or in combination fails to teach or disclose all elements of the rejected claim, as discussed with respect to claim 7.

The *35 U.S.C. 103(a)* rejection of claim 10 is also traversed because the Examiner's suggestion or motivation to combine the references as manifested in the last sentence of paragraph 8 is inadequate. More particularly, it is unclear from the language of the Office Action where the so-called suggestion or motivation might be found, i.e., in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available in the art. Clarification is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's reliance on *In re Dailey*, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966) in the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claim 10 is deemed inappropriate because the criticality of the claim feature has been disclosed in the specification, the paragraph bridging pages 12-13.

For the overwhelming reasons advanced above, Applicants respectfully submit that original claims 7-13 are patentable over the applied art of record.

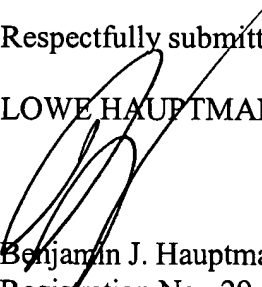
Solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claim 7 to include claim 11 which recited an important feature of the present invention. Amended claim 7 now requires a pair of passages configured to allow fluid communication between the second chamber and the third chamber. The applied art of record does not fairly teach or suggest such a unique feature. Claims 7-10 and 12-13 are therefore clearly patentable.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been overcome/traversed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1 and 4-7 as follows:

1. (Amended) A compact air conditioner for automobiles, comprising:

an evaporator positioned on an upstream side of an interior flow passage of [an] ~~the~~ air conditioner;

a heater core positioned on a downstream side of said interior flow passage;

a defrost vent selectively opened and closed by a defrost door, and positioned in a mixing chamber that is situated in an exit of said interior flow passage;

a face vent opened and closed by a face door;

[a floor vent divided by a second partition positioned behind said heater core, and selectively opened and closed by a floor door;]

a first partition positioned between said evaporator and said heater core, and provided with a first blowing opening for allowing air to [detour] ~~bypass~~ said heater core and a second blowing opening for blowing air to said heater core;

a floor vent divided by a second partition positioned behind said heater core, and selectively opened and closed by a floor door;

a temperature regulating door for regulating [the] degrees of opening of said blowing openings, said temperature regulating door being ~~movably~~ supported by [on both side] walls of a housing of said air conditioner [housing by its two side support arms];

a heater chamber containing said heater core, said heater chamber being defined by said first and second partitions and a pair of side partitions, ~~said heater chamber~~ being open at a [its] bottom ~~thereof~~ and communicating with said second blowing opening; and

a pair of side blowing passages each being formed between [each] one of said side partitions and an interior wall of said [air conditioner] housing of said air conditioner.

4. (Amended) The compact air conditioner according to claim 3, wherein said heater core is horizontally [inserted into] disposed in said heater chamber:

5. (Amended) The compact air conditioner according to claim 2, wherein said heater core is horizontally [inserted into] disposed in said heater chamber.

6. (Amended) The compact air conditioner according to claim 1, wherein
said first partition is [formed to be] arcuate, [a door plate of] said temperature regulating door [is formed to be] being arcuate and having a curvature corresponding to that of
[correspondingly to] said first partition;[,] and

said temperature regulating door is rotatably supported by the walls of said housing so that the degrees [a degree] of opening of said first and second blowing openings are selectively regulated according to an angle of rotation of said [door plate that is rotated around said support arms] temperature regulating door.

7. (Amended) An air conditioner, comprising:
a housing [defining] containing first, second and third chambers;
a first heat exchanger located in the first chamber, wherein the first chamber is configured to pass a first air flow through the first heat exchanger in a first direction;
a second heat exchanger located in the second chamber, wherein the second chamber is configured to pass a second air flow through the second heat exchanger in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction,[:]; the third chamber being configured to receive the heat exchanged air from [the] at least one of the first and second [heat] chambers and to discharge the air [therefrom] from the third chamber; [and]

a partition member [defining] having first and second openings, wherein the partition member, together with walls of said housing, defines [is configured to partition] the first, second and third chambers, the first opening is configured to allow fluid communication between the first chamber and the third chamber, and [wherein] the second opening is configured to allow fluid communication between the first chamber and the second chamber; and

a pair of passages configured to allow fluid communication between the second chamber and the third chamber.

ABSTRACT

[Disclosed herewith is a compact air conditioner for automobiles. The^{AN} air conditioner includes an evaporator
5 [positioned] and a heater core. [A defrost vent is selectively opened and closed by a defrost door, and positioned in a mixing chamber. A face vent is opened and closed by a face door. A floor vent is divided by a second partition positioned behind the heater core, and
10 selectively opened and closed by a floor door.] A first partition is positioned between the evaporator and the heater core, and provided with a first blowing opening for allowing air to detour the heater core and a second blowing opening for blowing air to the heater core. A
15 temperature regulating door is supported on [both] sidewalls of the air conditioner housing by [its] two side support arms. A heater chamber containing the heater core [is] [defined by the first and second partitions and a pair of side partitions,] is open at its bottom and communicates
20 with the second blowing opening. A pair of side blowing passages [are formed between each side partition and an interior wall of the air conditioner housing].

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Communicate the heater chamber and a mixing chamber